

# His Word in Our Hearts

~ August 2021 ~

*But who am I, and what is my people,  
that we should be able thus to offer willingly?  
For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.  
I Chronicles 29:14*

<b>Daily Bible Reading</b>			<b>Reading I and II Chronicles:</b>
1	1 Chronicles 1-2	Proverbs 1	<p>Like Samuel and Kings, the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book, possibly written by Ezra. In the Hebrew Bible it is the last book, written after the exile of God's people as they are returning to Israel and rebuilding their lives and their temple. Kings focused on the relationship between the kings and the prophets (hence all the stories about Elijah and Elisha). Chronicles focus on the relationship between the kings and the priests.</p> <p>That's one of the key reasons for those long, seemingly boring genealogies in the first nine chapters of I Chronicles. Why would God waste so much space on so many names?</p> <p>The genealogies begin with Adam and stretch to the descendants of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, the kingly and priestly tribes, who made up most of those who returned to the land after exile.</p> <p>Chronicles might seem like just a repeat of Samuel and Kings, but careful reading will show it is not. Chronicles adds to and omits many stories, with a focus on the faithful remnant of Judah. It is sort of like the difference between John's Gospel and the other three, a different focus.</p> <p>The Chronicles emphasis on the interaction of kings and priests also explains the huge emphasis on the Temple. We have David's preparation for Temple-building, Solomon building and dedicating the Temple, Hezekiah insisting on a cleansing and refurbishing of the Temple, and then holding a great celebration of Passover there. And a few generations later, we see Josiah restoring the Temple.</p> <p>All of this is written as an encouragement to the returning post-exile Jews faced with the great task of rebuilding the Temple and Jerusalem.</p> <p>Notice the emphasis throughout of the centrality of worship by showing us repeated situations where music, gladness, joy, and worship all come together.</p> <p>Reading the genealogies (even if you find yourself skimming them) remind us God is sovereign over all of life and over our lives, He knows all our names, He is a faithful covenant-making and covenant-keeping God even to thousands of generations. And genealogies remind us our lives are fragile and short and we soon pass away. These names are the roots, branches and fruit of a great genealogical tree that we a part of. The genealogies in 1 Chronicles remind us where history is headed, in the fulfillment of the royal and priestly line in the coming Son of David, seated on the throne of the universe, the true and better Priest King of Israel.</p>
2	1 Chronicles 3-4	Proverbs 2	
3	1 Chronicles 5-6	Proverbs 3	
4	1 Chronicles 7-9	Proverbs 4	
5	1 Chronicles 10-11	Proverbs 5	
6	1 Chronicles 12-14	Proverbs 6	
7	1 Chronicles 15-16	Proverbs 7	
8	1 Chronicles 17-19	Proverbs 8	
9	1 Chronicles 20-22	Proverbs 9	
10	1 Chronicles 23-25	Proverbs 10:1-16	
11	1 Chronicles 26-28	Proverbs 10:17-32	
12	1 Chronicles 29	Proverbs 11:1-15	
13	2 Chronicles 1-2	Proverbs 11:16-31	
14	2 Chronicles 3-5	Proverbs 12:1-14	
15	2 Chronicles 6-7	Proverbs 12:15-28	
16	2 Chronicles 8-9	Proverbs 13:1-12	
17	2 Chronicles 10-12	Proverbs 13:13-25	
18	2 Chronicles 13-16	Proverbs 14:1-18	
19	2 Chronicles 17-19	Proverbs 14:19-35	
20	2 Chronicles 20-21	Proverbs 15:1-17	
21	2 Chronicles 22-24	Proverbs 15:18-33	
22	2 Chronicles 25-27	Proverbs 16:1-16	
23	2 Chronicles 28-29	Proverbs 16:17-33	
24	2 Chronicles 30-33	Proverbs 17:1-14	
25	2 Chronicles 34-36	Proverbs 17:15-28	

Reading Chronicles will remind us how God is writing history and it all points to and leads to Jesus. It reminds us that like Israel we are also exiles and pilgrims on this earth for a brief time, who must not grow weary, but persevere to the end. It reminds us of the great importance of godly leadership and faithful worship (kings and priests again). We are shown again and again both good examples and bad examples.

Finally, reminds us to pray. Toward the end of the book, the Chronicler tells us, "The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him." Reread David's great prayer in I Chronicles 29 and pray it for yourself, your family, our church, our nation and future generations. Remember II Chronicles 7:14, one of the most remembered verses.

*II Chronicles 7:14 If my people who are called by my name humble themselves,  
and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

### **Outline of I and II Chronicles:**

The Book of Genealogies (I Chronicles 1-9)

The Book of David (I Chronicles 10-29)

The Book of Solomon (II Chronicles 1-9)

The Book of the Kings of Judah (II Chronicles 10-36)